I·C·P·D 94

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Cairo Conference Maps Out 'Path to a Better Reality'

MAGGIE HALLAHAN

ICPD Secretary-General Dr. Nafis Sadik acknowledges standing ovation after her 13 September concluding address to Conference.

CAIRO—The Programme of Action adopted by the International Conference on Population and Development "starts from the reality of the world we live in and shows us the path to a better reality", Dr. Nafis Sadik, Secretary-General of the Conference, told delegates at the closing session on 13 September. "This Programme of Action," she stated, "has the potential to change the world."

Delegations from 179 States (plus 7 observers) took part in eight days of painstaking negotiations to finalize the Programme. Adopting the spirit of "rigour, tolerance and conscience" called for by UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in his opening address to the Conference on 5 September, they reached a number of crucial compromises.

The resulting 16-chapter document, adopted at the final session, strongly endorses a new strategy for addressing population issues, one that emphasizes the numerous linkages between population and development and focuses on meeting the needs of individual women and men rather than on achieving demographic targets.

Key to this new approach is empowering women and providing them with more choices through expanded access to education and health services and promoting skill development and employment. The 20-year Programme of Action advocates making family planning universally available by 2015 or sooner as part of a broadened approach to reproductive health and rights, provides estimates of the required levels of national resources and international assistance, and calls on Governments to make these resources available.

The Programme of Action also includes goals in regard to education, especially for girls, and for the further reduction of infant, child and maternal mortality levels. It also addresses issues relating to population, the environment and consumption patterns; the family; internal and international migration; prevention and control of the HIV/AIDS pandemic; information, education and communication; and technology, research and development. And it calls, for the first time, on Governments to address unsafe abortion as a leading cause of maternal mortality and a "major public health concern".

The urgency of linking population and development efforts was a common theme running through the 249 speeches made in the week-long plenary session which paralleled the negotiations.

The Conference had 10,757 registered participants—from Governments, intergovernmental agencies, non-governmental organizations and the news media—and received an unprecedented level of press coverage. In addition, nearly 4,000 people attended the NGO Forum

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IN BRIEF

More than 300 lawmakers from 107 countries gathered at Cairo's Meridien Hotel on 3 and 4 September for the International Conference of Parliamentarians on Population and Development (ICPPD). After a series of working group discussions, they adopted by consensus the Cairo Declaration on Population and Development.

The declaration stresses the importance of a successful outcome at ICPD, and calls for placing family planning in the broader framework of reproductive health and removing barriers to family planning information and services.

ICPPD was convened by the Asian Forum on Population and Development, the Inter-American Parliamentary Group on Population and Development, the International Medical Parliamentarians Organization, the Global Committee of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, and Parliamentarians for Global Action.

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In connection with ICPD, UN Radio has produced six 15-minute programmes on population issues.

Population and Development looks at the link between population growth, sustainable development and consumption. *Reproductive Rights and Health* examines the right to decide on family size and the importance of counselling and access to counselling about both sexuality and family planning services. *Gender Equality* analyses how respect for women may be one of the best ways of stabilizing population growth. *Focus on Adolescents* discusses the consequences of early sexual activity and the importance of making available to teenagers information and counselling about sexuality. *Male Responsibility* looks at the importance of encouraging men to take responsibility for their sexual and reproductive behaviour as well as for the children they have, and *Migration* examines the phenomenon of people leaving their homes to escape conflict or persecution or to seek a better life.

All six of the programmes are available in English, Spanish and Swahili (four programmes are available in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Dutch, French, French Creole, Hindi, Indonesian, Russian and Urdu) on request from UN Radio, Room S-850F, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, tel. 212-963-6977, fax 212-963-1307.

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To disseminate ICPD materials and facilitate world-wide involvement in Conference-related activities, the Population Information Network (POPIN) of the UN Population Division set up a communication and reference centre at the Conference site. Staff members collected all the statements given in the ICPD plenary and electronically placed the texts in the POPIN gopher, a data facility accessible through the Internet computer network and electronic mail.

A large number of delegates, journalists and NGOs used the centre's services to make copies of the statements and other population information; thousands of others around the world electronically accessed the information in the gopher. Technical support for the centre was provided by the Information and Decision Support Centre of the Egyptian Cabinet and the Association for Progressive Communication.

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Four independent daily newspapers on ICPD were produced in Cairo for distribution at the Conference. All four offered up-to-date reports on activity in the plenary and Main Committee, as well as analyses of the issues under negotiation, interviews with participants, and background articles from around the world on a variety of population and development topics.

The papers are: *The Earth Times*, published in English by the New York-based Earth Times Foundation; *Terra Viva*, published in English by the Inter Press Service, a non-profit association of journalists; *Vivre autrement*, published in French by the Dakar-based organization ENDA Third World; and *ICPD Watch*, published mostly in English (with some articles in French and Spanish) by the New Delhi-based Women's Feature Service. All but *ICPD Watch* were produced in association with Cairo's *Al-Ahram* newspaper.

Also daily was the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin*, providing thorough summaries of ICPD statements and negotiations (also available on several computer networks).

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To facilitate consultations among parliamentarians participating in ICPD in various capacities, the People's Assembly of Egypt, in conjunction with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), organized Parliamentarians' Day on 7 September. The session's Chairman was Dr. Ahmed Fathi Sorour, Speaker of the Assembly. Some 281 parliamentarians from 72 countries took part.

In a statement to the meeting, IPU Council President Sir Michael Marshall noted the Union's long-standing interest in population issues, and said that population "should be tackled as an aspect of development and not as a sector-based problem."

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More than 100 young women and men from all regions of the world and from a diversity of cultural, religious and political backgrounds took part in an International NGO Youth Consultation on Population and Development, held in Cairo from 31 August to 4 September.

Discussions and recommendations centred on the need for youth education and mobilization in regard to adolescent health, sexual and reproductive health, sustainable development, environmental protection and human rights, teenage pregnancy and safe sexual behaviour.

The consultation was organized by International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, International Planned Parenthood Federation, International Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations, Society for International Development, World Assembly of Youth, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Council of Churches, World Organization of the Scout Movement, and World Young Women's Christian Association.

Dr. Sadik: ICPD Was a 'Quantum Leap'

Following are excerpts from the 13 September closing statement to delegates by Dr. Nafis Sadik, Secretary-General of ICPD:

This has been an outstandingly successful Conference. You have discussed the issues to the point of exhaustion, but you have kept your purpose in sight. You have defended your principles, but you have permitted the free play of many points of view. You have remembered above all that your aim was action.

You have learned how important and deeply-felt are the differences among our cultures, backgrounds and beliefs. You have learned to respect those differences, and yet to find among them the values we hold in common.

You have crafted a Programme of Action for the next 20 years which starts from the reality of the world we live in, and shows us the path to a better reality. The Programme contains highly specific goals and recommendations in the mutually reinforcing areas of infant and maternal mortality, education, and reproductive health and family planning, but its effect will be far wider-ranging than that. This Programme of Action has the potential to change the world.

Nothing in the Programme of Action limits the freedom of nations to act individually within the bounds of their laws and cultures. Everything in the Programme encourages nations to act together for their common interest. Nothing in the Programme of Action limits the freedom of Governments to act on behalf of their people; everything in the Programme encourages cooperation between Governments and non-governmental organizations, among groups of different backgrounds representing different interests, and between individual women and men.

'Chopping and Stitching'

You have demonstrated once more the value of the United Nations process of consensus-building. It is long and exhaustive, it draws the closest attention to the smallest distinctions, but in the end this apparently divisive process, this activity of chopping up sentences and stitching them together again, draws us closer together. Our chopping and stitching has produced a coat of many colours, but it is a garment that will fit us all.

UNITED NATIONS

'This Programme of Action is detailed in its analysis, specific in its objectives, precise in its recommendations and transparent in its methodology.'

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, your achievements in this Conference have been historic. As one writer put it: "Where else has the fundamental condition of all women, whatever their status or the state of their personal freedom been so intensely debated, or seen to be so relevant to the next century?" The Programme of Action you are about to adopt places women and men, and their families, at the top of the international development agenda. It is a population action programme that puts people first.

Energetic and committed implementation of the Programme of Action over the next 20 years:

- Will bring women at last into the mainstream of development, it will protect their health, promote their education, and encourage and reward their economic contribution;
- Will ensure that every pregnancy is intended, and every child is a wanted child;
- Will protect women from the results of unsafe abortion;
- Will protect the health of adolescents, and encourage responsible behaviour;
- Will combat HIV/AIDS;
- Will promote education for all and close the gender gap in education;
- Will protect and promote the integrity of the family.

You have spent a long time discussing how the Programme of Action should deal with abortion. I think your conclusion is highly satisfactory. It fulfils the original intention of concentrating on unsafe abortion as a serious and preventable health problem. Abortion is not a means of family planning. There will be fewer abortions in future, because there will be less need for abortion.

Implementing the Programme of Action will encourage safer, more secure births, by providing information and services to enable women and men to plan for pregnancy. The Programme of Action recognizes that healthy families are created by choice, not chance.

You have recognized that poverty is the most formidable enemy of choice. Poverty is not only an economic phenomenon—there is a spiritual dimension; and here too the Programme of Action will make its contribution. Drawing women into the mainstream of development will be one of the most important effects of the Programme of Action. Better health and education, and freedom to plan their family's future, will widen women's economic choices, but it will also liberate their minds and spirits.

Without resources however, the Programme of Action will remain a paper promise. We need a commitment from all countries, industrialized countries as well as developing countries, that they will take their full responsibility in this regard. Implementing the Programme of Action will help to build the basis for sustainable development, for economic growth with equity and justice.

Compared with any earlier document on population and development, this Programme of Action ... represents a quantum leap to a higher state of energy. Thanks to the media, it has already drawn the interest of people world-wide. I hope that this process will continue so that everyone can contribute to its objectives.

READEX FICHE

MAGGIE HALLAHAN

Particpants discuss Programme of Action text outside the room where Main Committee negotiations are under way.

'Better Reality'

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'94, an independent gathering held alongside the Conference.

Opening Session

Dr. Sadik opened the Conference, at the Cairo International Conference Centre, at 9:30 a.m. on 5 September. Delegates quickly approved a number of organizational and procedural issues which had been addressed in pre-conference consultations on 3 and 4 September. These included the rules of procedure, organization of work including establishment of the Main Committee, appointment of the Credentials Committee, and accreditation of additional intergovernmental organizations and NGOs.

After a brief suspension, the meeting was reconvened by Mr. Boutros-Ghali who then addressed the plenary. He called ICPD a "turning point" in addressing poverty, development, the environment, the status of women, the conditions in which children are growing up, public health, and other issues linked with people's welfare.

"I am not exaggerating when I say that not only does the future of human society depend on your Conference but also the efficacy of the economic order of the planet on which we live," he declared. Delegates must be "highly respectful of cultures and beliefs", he said. "Such tolerance must be shown in the strongest possible way, for it should not lead to cautious compromises, half-measures, vague solutions or, still worse, statements that lull us into complacency."

President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, was then elected President of the Conference and addressed the plenary. He expressed the hope that ICPD would serve as a bridge between North, South, East and West, and be guided by a spirit of solidarity and shared responsibility, balancing spiritual and material needs.

After welcoming remarks by Dr. Sadik, the morning plenary then heard speeches from Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway, Vice President Albert Gore of the United States, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, and Prince Mbilini, the Prime Minister of Swaziland.

"This conference is really about the future of democracy, how we widen and deepen its forces and scope," Dr. Brundtland declared. "Unless we empower our people, educate them, care for their health, allow them to enter economic life, on an equal basis and rich in opportunity, poverty will persist, ignorance will be pandemic and people's needs will suffocate under their numbers. ...

"When we adopt the Programme of Action," she pledged, "we sign a promise — a promise to allocate more resources next year than we did this year to health-care systems, to education, family planning and the struggle against AIDS."

"Equitable and sustainable development and population stabilization go together," Mr. Gore argued. "The education and empowerment of women, high levels of literacy, the availability of contraception and quality health care: these factors are all crucial. They cannot be put off until development takes place; they must accompany it — and indeed should be seen as part of the process by which development is hastened and made more likely."

"What we need," Ms. Bhutto stressed, "is a global partnership for improving the human condition. ... By empowering our women, we work for our goal of population stabilization and, with it, promotion of human dignity."

The Conference then elected as its Vice-Presidents Brazil, Mexico, Suriname, Uruguay, Venezuela, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Malta, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Senegal, Tunisia, Zambia, Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Japan, the Marshall Islands, Pakistan, Hungary, Romania, and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

Dr. Maher Mahran, Minister of Population and Family Welfare of Egypt, was designated Vice-Chairman *ex officio* of the Conference. Dr. Fred Sai of Ghana was elected Chairman of the Main Committee.

In the 5 September afternoon plenary, Dr. Sadik delivered her major statement. She reviewed the progress made since the World Population Conference of 1974 in providing family planning services world-wide. Regarding the current Programme of Action, she emphasized that "the principle of sovereignty underlies the whole text." Citing the controversy that had arisen around references to abortion, she pointed out that "the objective is to reduce the need for abortion" and to reduce the hundreds of maternal deaths that now occur daily due to unsafe abortion, through strengthened family planning and reproductive health programmes. "Each nation will address the issue according to its own laws and practice. Surely, in the name of humanity, it must be done."

"The language of the document is so framed as to be acceptable to the widest spectrum of approaches to population," she said, promising that every effort would be made to find "phrasing acceptable to all" on issues such as the role and function of the family.

At the same time, Dr. Sadik stressed the need for "definite and precise terminology" to address problems such as adolescent pregnancy. Key to successful implementation of the Programme, she noted, were an "effective partnership" between Governments and NGOs, expanded South-South cooperation, and the commitment of "additional financial resources for national popula-

tion programmes in support of sustainable development".

"The key to sustainable development will be finding the balance between human needs and demands, and the resources available to support them," she concluded. "People are at the heart of the process, as agents and as beneficiaries. We have it in our power to lighten their burdens, remove obstacles in their path and permit them the full flowering of their potential as human beings. This is the moral and ethical basis of the Programme of Action."

The plenary continued that afternoon and for another five and a half days, sometimes including evening sessions. Speakers representing 155 States and observers, 24 UN agencies, programmes and funds, 15 intergovernmental organizations and 37 NGOs addressed the plenary. Many of them focused on national experiences in population and on controversial parts of the draft Programme of Action. A number spoke on the links between rapid population growth, poverty and underdevelopment. Many emphasized the essential connection between women's empowerment and social and economic progress.

Main Committee

Also on the afternoon of 5 September, the Main Committee began its work, electing as Vice-Chairmen Lionel Hurst of Antigua and Barbuda, Nicolaas Biegman of the Netherlands and Bal Baida of Nepal. Jerzy Holzer of Poland was elected as the Rapporteur of the Main Committee. "Forget everything that you read in the past, and try to read the full document," Mr. Sai told delegates as he urged them to produce a harmonious final draft and not to reopen discussion of text already agreed upon.

For the next week, the Main Committee laboured to resolve differences or questions that had prevented approval of various sections of the draft Programme of Action at the third session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee in April. Many of its deliberations were conducted in informal sessions, or in smaller working groups which addressed particular paragraphs.

The most involved negotiations were on Chapters II (Principles), VII (Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Health), VIII (Health, Morbidity and Mortality, where it was proposed that unsafe abortion be addressed) and X (International Migration, where there was controversy over the concept of a "right" of family reunification). A few of the most significant compromises that were arrived at are outlined below.

Arduous and eventually successful negotiation of the "chapeau" paragraphs of Chapter II on Principles in particular paved the way for agreement on many other unfinished sections. The first paragraph of the final version reads: "The implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action is the sovereign right of each country, consistent with national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights."

The longest discussion, and the one most closely followed by the press, concerned paragraph 8.25 on abortion. While many States favoured the first of two texts proposed that addressed the need to reduce maternal deaths due to unsafe abortion, a number of other States wanted the stronger language opposing abortion that appeared in the alternative text. The eventual compromise on the text of this paragraph facilitated the resolution of other sections of the text dealing with reproductive health and rights, family planning and safe motherhood.

The final text reads as follows: "In no case should abortion be promoted as a method of family planning. All Governments and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations are urged to strengthen their commitment to women's health, to deal with the health impact of unsafe abortion as a major public health concern and to reduce the recourse to abortion through expanded and improved family planning services. Prevention of unwanted pregnancies must always be given the highest priority and all attempts should be made to eliminate the need for abortion. Women who have unwanted pregnancies should have ready access to reliable information and compassionate counselling. Any measures or changes related to abortion within the health system can only be determined at the national or local level according to the national legislative process. In circumstances in which abortion is not against the law, such abortion should be safe. In all cases women should have access to quality services for the management of complications arising from abortion. Post-abortion counselling, education and family-planning services should be offered promptly which will also help to avoid repeat abortions."

A footnote to paragraph 8.25 states: "Unsafe abortion is defined as a procedure for terminating an unwanted pregnancy either by persons lacking necessary skills or in an environment lacking the minimal medical standards or both (WHO/MSM/92.5)."

In the negotiation of Chapter VII, a pivotal compromise concerned the definition (in paragraph 7.2) of reproductive rights and reproductive health, the final version of which affirms "... the right of men and women to be informed and to have access to safe, effective, affordable and acceptable methods of

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***At the dais opening day*: ICPD *Deputy Secretary-General Joseph Chamie*; *Dr. Sadik*; UN *Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali*; *Egyptian President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak*.**

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family planning of their choice, as well as other methods of their choice for the regulation of fertility which are not against the law ... "

Paragraph 7.3 states that reproductive rights "rest on the recognition of the basic right of all couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children, and to have the information and means to do so, and the right to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health. It also includes the right of all to make decisions concerning reproduction free of discrimination, coercion and violence as expressed in human rights documents."

In regard to adolescents, paragraph 7.45 recognizes "the rights, duties and responsibilities of parents" to provide "appropriate direction and guidance in sexual and reproductive matters", while calling on countries to "ensure that the programmes and attitudes of health-care providers do not restrict the access of adolescents to appropriate services and the information they need, including on sexually transmitted diseases and sexual abuse."

Another issue involving lengthy negotiation concerned the reunification of families separated as a result of international migration, and whether this should be recognized as a "right". The final text states that "all Governments, particularly those of receiving countries, must recognize the vital importance of family reunification and promote its integration into their national legislation ... ." A number of delegations expressed strong support for convening a global conference on international migration.

The section of Chapter XIII (National Action) on resource mobilization includes estimates of annual programme costs for the years 2000 through 2015 for family planning, basic reproductive health services, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS, and population research, data and policy analysis. These figures (totalling $17 billion in the year 2000 and $21.7 billion in 2015) were ultimately agreed to with the stipulation that they "are indicative cost estimates" which "should be reviewed and updated ... particularly with respect to the costs of implementing reproductive health service delivery."

UNITED NATIONS

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto addresses opening plenary, 5 September.

Paragraph 13.16 states, "It is tentatively estimated that up to two thirds of the costs will continue to be met by the countries themselves and in the order of one third from external sources. However, the least developed countries and other low-income developing countries will require a greater share of external resources on a concessional and grant basis ... "

The Main Committee finally adopted the entire Programme of Action and forwarded it to the plenary at 7 p.m. on Monday, 12 September.

Closing Session

On Tuesday, 13 September, the plenary adopted the report of the Credentials Committee and authorized the Rapporteur-General of the Conference, Peeter Olesk, Minister for Culture and Education of Estonia, to complete the Report of the Conference and submit it to the UN General Assembly.

The plenary then considered the report of the Main Committee, consisting of the Programme of Action (documents A/CONF.171/L.3 and Adds. 1 to 17). The process involved formal adoption of each chapter. Chapters I, III, VI, and IX through XVI were adopted without reservations. One or more countries voiced reservations on some parts of the other five chapters.

Algeria, on behalf of the G-77 group of developing countries and China, then introduced document A/CONF.171/L.5 calling for adoption of the Programme of Action and recommending that the General Assembly endorse the Programme and consider the synthesis of national reports on population and development prepared by the Conference Secretariat.

In the subsequent debate, 18 countries expressed reservations. The Holy See, which did not join the consensus in the 1974 and 1984 population conferences, announced it was joining the current consensus "in an incomplete, partial manner", accepting Chapters II, III, IV, IX and X. It supported the emphases on linking population and development, on the protection of the family and on empowering women through improved access to education and health care, but stated that the texts of other chapters had implications it could not support.

Reservations were also voiced by Iran, Malta, Peru, Yemen, Afghanistan, El Salvador, Kuwait, Djibouti, Libya, Argentina, the Dominican Republic, United Arab Emirates, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Paraguay, Honduras and Ecuador. All of the reservations will be duly noted in the final report of the Conference.

A number of other delegations took the floor to comment on the text without offering reservations. Finally, the Programme of Action was adopted by

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Highlights of NGO Forum '94

MAGGIE HALLAHAN

NGO *Forum participants applaud* Dr. *Sadik during her* 10 *September visit.*

At Cairo's Covered Stadium Complex, adjacent to the convention centre where ICPD was under way, some 4,000 representatives of over 1,500 non-governmental organizations from 133 countries exchanged experiences and opinions on a wide range of Conference-related topics. The NGO Forum '94, held from 4-12 September, offered a lively, diverse programme, with more than 90 sessions each day.

Every morning started with meetings of five caucuses. In addition to the Youth, Environment and Women's caucuses which had met during the third session of the ICPD Preparatory Committee in April, there were a Religious Caucus made up of mainstream religious groups and a Pro-Life Caucus.

The Women's Caucus was the largest, with some 400-500 participants daily. Many Women's Caucus members were actively involved in lobbying activities at ICPD, and each morning, after an overview was given of the negotiations in the Conference's Main Committee, the lobbying priorities for the day were discussed.

On Saturday, 10 September, ICPD Secretary-General Dr. Nafis Sadik visited the Women's Caucus to show her appreciation of their work. The crowd gave her a tumultuous welcome, with five standing ovations, sustained applause, foot-stamping and whistling. Many women were very moved by Dr. Sadik's spontaneous visit; some said it was the high point of their days in Cairo.

The other caucuses were smaller, ranging from 15 participants in the Pro-Life Caucus to 200-300 in the Environment Caucus. Most of caucuses have issued a final declaration or statement, often emphasizing the post-Cairo process.

Throughout each day in the complex's various meeting rooms and auditoriums, there were dozens of panel discussions and presentations organized by different NGOs from around the world. These centred on several main themes: empowerment of women, reproductive health, human rights, religion, environment and development.

Frank Exchanges

In the sessions on religion, population and development, many participants reported that for the first time they were able to exchange frank views on population and reproductive health issues both within their denominations and across religious lines. This unprecedented, spontaneous ecumenical assembly was driven in part by what organizers described as the need to put forth mainstream religious views in the face of religious extremism. Some participants voiced frustration over negative media coverage focusing on religious groups whose views were not representative of the majority of parishioners/adherents in their countries.

Interviews with Forum participants revealed a widespread enthusiasm about being able to talk frankly about issues that have not been addressed as openly at past meetings. Many women expressed a great sense of relief and freedom to be able to share their anger and frustration over such problems as unsafe abortion, teenage pregnancy, sex-selection abortion, female infanticide, discrimination against girls, child marriage and prostitution, medical malpractice by reproductive health providers, coercive family planning programmes, female genital mutilation, rape, incest and other violence against women.

Some participants contended, however, that ICPD should have given more emphasis to broader development issues, including poverty alleviation, international economic justice and the impact of structural adjustment programmes. A number of Southern groups decried what they said was a lack of attention to environmental issues, particularly wasteful over-consumption and environmental pollution in the wealthy countries of the North.

Most appeared to appreciate the civility which tended to characterize the Forum's exchanges (notwithstanding some well-publicized clashes between those with opposing views). Despite major differences in the viewpoints of participating groups, their interactions were generally respectful.

Forum participants generally seemed pleased with the level of NGO participation in the process leading up to Cairo and during the Conference itself. Most seemed satisfied with the services provided in the NGO Forum site and impressed by the organization of the event and the extensive programme offered.

Much of the talk during the last days of the Forum was about what to do after Cairo — how to ensure implementation of the Programme of Action and how to monitor government actions. In this regard, the Women's Caucus issued a post-Cairo action agenda. There was also considerable discussion of how to ensure that agreements reached in Cairo on important health and gender equity issues will be carried forward to the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing next year.

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acclamation, as delegates applauded. Several more countries then made closing statements.

Next, the Conference formally thanked the Government and people of Egypt for their hospitality. In turn, Mr. Amr Moussa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt, congratulated delegates on their agreement.

In her concluding statement (see page 3), Dr. Sadik praised participants for overcoming their differences to produce a "historic" Programme of Action which "places women and men, and their families, at the top of the international development agenda". She added, "Without resources, however, the Programme of Action will remain a paper promise."

"Compared with any earlier document on population and development," she stated, "This Programme is detailed in its analysis, specific in its objectives, precise in its recommendations and transparent in its methodology. In our field it represents a quantum leap to a higher state of energy. Thanks to the media, it has already drawn the interest of people world-wide." Delegates gave her a standing ovation when she finished.

Dr. Mahran closed the Conference with a statement hailing the Conference for the "cooperative spirit" which made it possible to reach agreement "while respecting the diversity of viewpoints".

Calendar of Upcoming Events

1994

20 September-mid-December United Nations Headquarters, New York	49th session of the United Nations General Assembly. Consideration of the Report of the International Conference on Population and Development
20 October United Nations Headquarters, New York	Commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations Population Fund

1995

16-17 January United Nations Headquarters, New York	Third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development
6-12 March Copenhagen, Denmark	World Summit for Social Development
26 June San Francisco, USA	Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter
4-15 September Beijing, China	Fourth World Conference on Women
22-24 October United Nations Headquarters New York	Special commemorative meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the 50th anniversary of the United Nations

International Conference on Population and Development

ICPD '94

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General Assembly Debate Tops List of Conference Follow-up Activities

Starting in mid-November, the forty-ninth session of the UN General Assembly will review and is expected to adopt a resolution on ICPD and the Programme of Action approved by the Conference on 13 September. Preparations for the debate in plenary and for subsequent actions to be initiated by the Assembly's Second Committee are among the many activities now under way as follow-up to the Conference.

Paragraph 16.8 of the Programme of Action adopted in Cairo last month states: "Governments, organizations of the United Nations system and major groups, in particular non-governmental organizations, should give the widest possible dissemination to this Programme of Action and should seek public support for the goals, objectives and actions of this Programme of Action. This may include follow-up meetings, publications and audio-visual aids and both print and electronic media."

In line with this instruction, the ICPD Secretariat has sent out over 4,000 copies of the Programme of Action (in its current English, unofficial, unedited form) to all of the more than 180 Permanent Missions to the United Nations, UN field offices and the many hundreds of individuals and groups who have requested it. (The document is also available electronically on the UN's Population Information Network gopher, which is accessed through the internet.)

ICPD Secretary-General Dr. Nafis Sadik, who is also Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), has instructed all UNFPA field staff to join with national authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and colleagues within the UN system to widely disseminate the Programme of Action and publicize the outcomes of the Conference.

At press time, the Programme of Action is still being finalized by UN editors and translators; it is anticipated that it will be available on 14 November. When the six official UN language versions are finalized, the Programme will be presented to the General Assembly as part of the final Report of the Conference. The final Report will contain an account of the Conference, including reservations expressed by some delegations when the Programme of Action was adopted by consensus.

The Assembly will consider the Report in two plenary meetings. Once this has concluded, the Second Committee, meeting in informal session, will begin negotiating a formal resolution on ICPD.

UNFPA field offices report that various national activities are already under way to disseminate the Programme of Action and to develop implementation plans. These include meetings among govern-

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UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali with Dr. Nafis Sadik, ICPD Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), at the opening of the Cairo Conference. Marking UNFPA's 25th anniversary this month, Mr. Boutros-Ghali said ICPD had "charted a path that could lead the world away from environmental and social disasters." Story on page 3.

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IN BRIEF

"The Global South and Population Issues: A Review of the Cairo Conference" was the topic of an 11 October symposium in Washington at The American University's Center for the Study of the Global South, School of International Service. Some 150 people took part.

In a presentation on the ICPD Programme of Action, Conference Executive Coordinator Jyoti Shankar Singh said, "The international community has, for the first time, gone beyond human numbers and demographic targets by placing human beings at the centre of all population and development activities."

"The population issue is no longer seen in isolation," he added, "but in conjunction with overall development strategies, in particular the eradication of poverty, the need for sustained economic growth in developing countries in the context of sustainable development, and the imperative need to empower women."

"Population programmes succeed when they are part of a broader development strategy, and where the priority is placed on investment in people, particularly women," Mr. Singh noted. "Successful reproductive health care and family planning programmes are based on the principle of free, individual choice of family size".

About a dozen other speakers addressed the themes of population and global governance, ethical dimensions of the population issue, and prospects for women's empowerment. Queen Noor of Jordan chaired the session on women.

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"Following the success of the International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, one senses that major breakthroughs for sustainable human development are now possible," UNICEF Executive Director James P. Grant declared on 3 October.

"Cairo's essential message," Mr. Grant said in a statement to the UNICEF Executive Board, "is that only a holistic approach — with a strong emphasis on empowerment of women — can break the grip of high birth rates on so many families, and first slow and then reverse population growth rates, while easing stress on the environment, sustaining democracy and human rights, and accelerating economic growth."

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Germany's Ministry of Economic Cooperation plans a more than 50 per cent increase in bilateral official development assistance (ODA) for family planning and related projects in the developing countries next year. In August, Ministry spokesman Wolfgang Kanera told the Inter Press Service that 147 million marks (about $92 million) was earmarked for such project development in 1995.

This bilateral ODA is 50 million marks ($31.25 million) more than the amount set aside for the current year. In addition, Germany will continue to make multilateral contributions — for instance, to the United Nations Population Fund and the International Planned Parenthood Federation — which amounted to about 52 million marks ($32.5 million) last year.

Family planning and related projects in developing countries are also receiving substantial financial backing from several non-governmental organizations in Germany, Mr. Kanera added.

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World food production will have to rise by 25 per cent by 2010 just to maintain present consumption levels, and by 55 per cent to eradicate hunger and malnutrition altogether, Jacques Diouf, Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said on 14 October.

Speaking in Rome at FAO's annual World Food Day ceremony, Mr. Diouf noted that more than 800 million of the world's nearly 5.7 billion people are hungry, and that the population is projected to rise to some 7 billion in the next 15 years.

The theme of this year's ceremony was "Water for Life", the need to safeguard the world's water resources. Mr. Diouf noted that world water use has more than doubled over the past two decades with 70 per cent being used in agriculture. More than half the world's population does not have enough water, he stated, but stressed that water shortages are often due to mismanagement rather than lack of supplies. He said a global irrigation and water control programme could stop drought and food shortages in Africa and world-wide.

Chilean President Eduardo Frei, keynote speaker at the ceremony, underscored the point, saying, "Land is fertile and generous when watered, and nowhere is it written that we must accept a defeatist attitude to land use." He urged world leaders to take immediate action to end hunger and poverty.

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Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 welcomed the outcome of ICPD in a Ministerial Declaration adopted at their 18th Annual Meeting, held 30 September in New York. The ministers "stressed the importance of the interlinkage between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development" and called for implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, underscoring the need for adequate resources and a follow-up mechanism.

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The World Resources Institute's global database is now available on diskette. It contains statistics from 176 countries on about 500 variables in the following categories: basic economic indicators; population and human development; land cover and settlements; food and agriculture; forests and rangelands; wildlife and habitat; energy and materials; fresh water; oceans and coasts; and atmosphere and climate.

The *World Resources 1994-95 Data Base Diskette* can be ordered for $99.95 from WRI Publications, P.O. Box 4852, Hampden Station, Baltimore, MD 21211; tel. (410) 516-6963.

25 Years of Action by UNFPA Marked at UN

The UN General Assembly on 20 October devoted its morning session to a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The Assembly adopted a resolution praising the Fund for its role in promoting better understanding of population and development issues, improving the quality of life, and helping developing countries address their population and development needs.

In an address for the occasion, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali congratulated UNFPA and its Executive Director, Dr. Nafis Sadik, for the Fund's achievements, including its role in organizing ICPD.

The Fund's work in "formulating and implementing programmes for population planning" is "fundamental to the success of the United Nations efforts for peace and development," he stated. "Our work towards such important aims as human rights, sustainable development, international trade and livable cities cannot succeed if the increase in the world's inhabitants becomes uncontrollable."

The Fund, currently operating in 140 countries with field offices in 58, "is now the largest internationally funded provider of population assistance to developing countries", more than 100 countries contribute to its work, the Secretary-General reported. Recognizing "the broad social implications of its work", he noted, the Fund also supports "census and civil registration, research in many fields, and information, communication and education."

"Particularly under the leadership of its current executive director, Dr. Nafis Sadik, the UNFPA has focused on the empowerment of women," he observed. "In so doing, Dr. Sadik has made a major contribution to the cause of women's rights."

Mr. Boutros-Ghali pointed out that UNFPA played a major role in organizing ICPD and that Dr. Sadik was Secretary-General of the Conference. He said the Programme of Action adopted in Cairo by "representatives of many disparate cultures" had "charted a path that could lead the world away from environmental and social disasters."

He added: "Such conferences have promoted awareness. But it is important to remember that the international community must follow through on the commitments it has made if it is to reap the benefits of its deliberations. Only political will, backed by financial resources, can give life to them. That is why UNFPA's role will continue to be important, and to be challenging."

A dozen other speakers also congratulated UNFPA for its work, all cited its role in ICPD. General Assembly President Amara Essy of Côte d'Ivoire said the fact that virtually all developing countries now have population programmes indicates the Fund's success in carrying out its mandate. Stressing the importance of Cairo, he said that if adoption of the Programme of Action was an essential act, its implementation was a vital one.

Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 developing countries and China, saluted UNFPA's sustained efforts to raise awareness of population and development issues and to assist developing countries, and said the goals adopted in Cairo should give new focus and urgency to this work. The United States noted its own return to the ranks of countries supporting UNFPA, and said that the Fund and donors should consider revising population assistance strategies in line with the new approach endorsed in Cairo.

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In an anniversary message, Dr. Sadik noted that "attitudes about population and population programmes are very different from when UNFPA began operations in 1969". The Cairo Conference, she pointed out, adopted the approach that the Fund has taken over the years, focusing on women's status and health as essential to successful population and development programmes, and emphasizing the links between population and social and economic development.

"The broader message of Cairo is about the importance of consulting the interests and needs of women and men, about improving the quality of life for all, and that free and informed choice must be the foundation for all action in population and development," she wrote.

"Through its advocacy and awareness creation, and by demonstrating through innovative action programmes that population and development programmes can work under all kinds of circumstances, UNFPA has helped to create the present broad consensus on population and development among Governments, NGOs and intergovernmental organizations. This in turn has helped to generate the funding and programmes to transform the consensus into action."

Follow-up

Continued from page 1

ment departments, NGOs, the media and others. Dr. Sadik has suggested to countries that implementation plans should include a review and revision of policies, resource allocation, and programme content and plans.

"Our task now, both collectively and individually, is to ensure that the optimism which has emerged from the ICPD process and which the Programme of Action reflects is turned into tangible benefits for people everywhere," she said in a 10 October statement to the UNFPA/UNDP Executive Board.

Fund Reviews Policy Guidelines

Within UNFPA, actions are already under way to ensure that the Fund's policies and practice fully reflect and promote the Programme of Action. In her statement to the Executive Board, Dr. Sadik reported that policy guidelines are currently being reviewed in the areas of family planning, information, education and communication (IEC); gender concerns; adolescents; and NGOs. Meetings of UNFPA Country Support Team staffs have been convened to help define policy and operational guidelines in these areas.

In respect to its key concern of family planning, UNFPA is conducting a review of guidelines to encompass the broader definition of reproductive health, including family planning, outlined in the Programme of Action. Along these lines, the Maternal and Child Health/Family Planning Branch of UNFPA's Technical and Evaluation Division has been renamed the Reproductive Health/Family Planning Branch. The Fund intends to strengthen support for prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and infertility, as well as for reduction of mortality and morbidity.

Also, in response to ICPD calls for the elimination of female genital mutilation, UNFPA plans to markedly increase its support to advocacy work and programme initiatives in this area; it plans to convene a meeting on the subject with the World Health Organization and others, including NGOs active in this area of reproductive health.

UNFPA has begun consultations with WHO on putting ICPD's expanded concept of reproductive health into operation. An expert group with WHO and UNFPA participation will be convened on reproductive health. UNFPA intends to collaborate closely with WHO and others, including the UN Children's Fund and the UN Development Programme, to help countries translate this comprehensive concept into viable and sustainable programmes. Training of various categories of primary health personnel will be a crucial task in this regard.

UNFPA is also reviewing its guidelines to reinforce the role of information, education and communication in support of reproductive health. Likewise, greater attention will be given to IEC in such areas as gender concerns, education of girls, and adolescent reproductive health.

The Fund is making plans to assist women's groups to better participate in monitoring implementation of the ICPD Programme, and to provide technical support for other organizations' and agencies' programmes to empower women and improve their status, as well as for women's education and health programmes.

UNFPA's financial assistance will focus on the population/reproductive health package outlined in Chapter XIII of the Programme of Action, with particular attention being concentrated on those countries that have the farthest to go to meet the ICPD goals for the year 2015.

In line with ICPD's call for a partnership among Governments, international agencies and NGOs, the Fund is looking at practical ways to further expand NGO involvement in and implementation of UNFPA-financed activities. It plans to organize national and regional meetings to exchange ideas about how Governments and NGOs can increasingly work together. Assistance for the training of NGOs in project implementation and management will be expanded.

In addition, both UNFPA and the ICPD Secretariat are cooperating closely with the Secretariats for next year's World Summit for Social Development and Fourth World Conference on Women to ensure that the commitments of ICPD are carried forward; this cooperation has included briefings on the approved principles, goals, proposed actions and other elements of the ICPD Programme of Action that are most relevant to the upcoming conferences.

Speakers in

During the recent general debate at the start of the UN General Assembly's forty-ninth session, many countries referred to the objectives and outcome of ICPD. Some examples follow.

Norway said ICPD "will be looked upon as a turning point in the history of population policy as it relates to social development and women's rights. The conclusion will have wide-ranging impact on democracy-building, educational policies, health-care programmes and the status of women."

Mozambique called ICPD a landmark event in the effort to address population in the context of sustainable development, and said that its Programme of Action responds to the challenges ahead.

The Netherlands termed ICPD a "success ... built on a formula which essentially amounted to common decency: to face the population problem not through coercion and discrimination, but by giving people the means to follow the path of their own choice, freely and responsibly."

A number of statements praised ICPD's emphasis on empowering women. Barbados said ICPD "spoke volumes about the changing nature of international dialogue and the changing role of women." The Commonwealth of Dominica stressed the ICPD consensus that "sustainable development cannot be realized without the full engagement and complete empowerment of women."

Nepal expressed satisfaction with ICPD's "focus given to the empowerment of women in decision-making, especially in planning the size of a family", but it also voiced concern about increased costs of population activities at a time when developing countries face "severe source constraints".

Canada emphasized the urgent need to cope effectively with population and development problems, "giving full recognition to the essential role of women. Our ability to translate into reality the concept of sustainable development will have a direct impact on the daily lives of our fellow citizens". Spain

General Assembly Hail ICPD Outcome

F. CHARTON/UNITED NATIONS

The ICPD strategy is "common decency ... giving people the means to follow the path of their own choice, freely and responsibly", the Netherlands said in its statement to the General Assembly. Above, family in North Pakistan.

stated that the ICPD Programme of Action "paves the way for a new demographic policy and places women at the heart of every population policy".

The Solomon Islands called education "a priority sector" key to effective management of natural resources as well as "a means of advancing women to take their rightful place in society. There is a direct link between the education of women and population".

Several speakers including Cyprus praised the ICPD Programme of Action's integrated approach to population, environmental protection and economic growth. Hungary said ICPD had raised awareness of sustainable development issues "at a time when contrasts between requirements of human development and limited resources become more and more evident".

The Federated States of Micronesia said the international community "faces a massive sense of urgency and obligation to radically reform and redirect its role and resources to address population growth and sustainable resource use". Jamaica called the Programme of Action "a landmark document highlighting the inextricable linkage between population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development".

Saint Kitts and Nevis said that while it supports the need to address population issues, "a concerted attempt to redeploy much of the world's resources, to discover new resources and use them more equitably would better serve the interest of development for all people". Gambia cited the correlation between desertification and rapid population growth and said that ICPD "demonstrated the importance of population policy as an essential ingredient of social and economic development planning".

Human Security

Sweden said that ICPD and other conferences "contribute to the achievement of human security in a broader sense. The Cairo Conference established that questions of population and development must be treated together. The starting point must be the human being and the rights and security of the individual." Grenada said that after ICPD it was "hopeful that increasingly balanced development will be viewed as the essential basis on which to treat the issue of population".

Many countries noted the continuity among the 1990 World Summit for Children, the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development, ICPD, and the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen and the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing next year. Armenia said they all were "key events for international consensus building".

Suriname said that ICPD, along with the Conference on Women and the Social Summit, "should afford to us all the opportunity to address in an integrated manner the issues of poverty, unemployment and social integration". Namibia spoke of the linkage among the Cairo, Copenhagen and Beijing conferences and the need for "greater and systematic coordination ... to ensure economy and efficiency".

Iceland stated that with the focus of ICPD and the Social Summit on women's issues, "we must once again realize that women share much of the burden in a family and society". Burkina Faso referred to the need for "new and additional resources" to carry out the decisions of ICPD, adding that the Fourth World Conference on Women should "continue the in-depth work initiated in Cairo ... under the theme that the woman is the best link to development".

Germany said ICPD reflected a "growing recognition that we must tackle global problems together". Slovakia said that the fact that ICPD succeeded in reaching agreement and adopted the Programme of Action "is a signal that the international community is aware of its responsibility for global issues of humanity". Kenya said that ICPD "clearly underlines the resolve of the international community to coordinate actions and strategies on social development as envisaged in the UN Charter".

Slovenia observed that ICPD had contributed significantly towards "a global consensus" on fundamental problems, and had "involved a whole new constituency". Cameroon welcomed the Programme of Action's focus on humans in all their diversity — religious, cultural and social.

El Salvador stressed the need for reforms and increased investments in health and education sectors, which would result in lower infant mortality and illiteracy rates. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines said it hoped ICPD would contribute to greater under-

Continued on page 8

Digest of ICPD Programme, Chapters I and II

The first two chapters of the ICPD *Programme of Action, summarized below, lay the basis for the objectives and recommendations delineated in the 14 subsequent chapters. The Preamble, Chapter I, provides an overview of the main issues covered in the Programme of Action and sets the context for action in the field of population and development. The wording of most of the 15 principles contained in Chapter II is directly derived from agreed international language from relevant international declarations, conventions and covenants.*

Chapter I, Preamble

ICPD is not an isolated event; its Programme of Action builds on the considerable international consensus that has developed since the World Population Conference in Bucharest in 1974 and the International Conference on Population at Mexico City in 1984.

The 1994 Conference was explicitly given a broader mandate on development issues than previous population conferences, reflecting the growing awareness that population, poverty, patterns of production and consumption and other threats to the environment are so closely interconnected that none of them can be considered in isolation.

ICPD follows and builds on other recent international activities; its recommendations should be supportive of, consistent with and based on agreements reached at earlier conferences. The Conference outcomes will be closely related to those of the upcoming World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women and the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, as well as the elaboration of the UN's Agenda for Development and the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

The Programme of Action's objectives and actions collectively address the critical challenges and interrelationships between population and sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development. In order to do so, adequate mobilization of resources at the national level will be required, as well as a substantial flow of new and additional financial resources to the developing countries from multilateral and bilateral sources. Financial resources are also required to strengthen international institutions' capacity to implement the Programme of Action.

The Programme of Action recommends important population and development objectives, including a set of mutually supportive qualitative and quantitative goals. Among these objectives and goals are: sustained economic growth in the context of sustainable development; education, especially for girls; gender equity and equality; infant, child and maternal mortality reduction; and the provision of universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning.

The Programme of Action recognizes that over the next 20 years Governments are not expected to meet the goals and objectives of ICPD single-handedly. All members of and groups in society have the right, and indeed the responsibility, to play an active part in efforts to reach those goals.

'Population, poverty, patterns of production and consumption and other threats to the environment are so closely interconnected that none of them can be considered in isolation.'

Chapter II, Principles

Implementation of the recommendations contained in the Programme of Action is the sovereign right of each country, consistent with its national laws and development priorities, with full respect for the various religious and ethical values and cultural backgrounds of its people, and in conformity with universally recognized international human rights. International cooperation and universal solidarity, guided by the principles of the United Nations Charter, and in a spirit of partnership, are regarded crucial in order to improve the quality of life of all people.

The principles presented in this chapter touch upon the main issues in the field of population and development, such as, poverty, the integration of population into sustainable development policies and programmes, the necessity of gender equality and equity, the importance of access to reproductive health care and family planning, the significance of education, the situation of children, the role of the family, the rights of migrants and refugees, and the population and development needs of indigenous people.

Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development, since people are the most valuable resource of any nation. Consequently, the right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet the population, development and environment needs of present and future generations. In addition, to achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate policies, including population-related policies.

Advancing gender equality and equity and the empowerment of women, and the elimination of all kinds of violence against women, and ensuring women's ability to control their own fertility, are cornerstones of population and development-related programmes. In addition, States should take all appropriate measures to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, universal access to health-care services, including those related to reproductive health care, which includes family planning and sexual health. All couples and individuals have the basic right to decide freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children and to have the information, education and means to do so.

The family is the basic unit of society and as such should be strengthened. There are various forms of the family in different cultural, political and social systems.

News for the NGOs

From the NGO Planning Committee for the ICPD

A number of non-governmental organizations are working on follow-up discussions and networking to put the ICPD Programme of Action into operation. The Women's Environment and Development Organization, which provided leadership to the women's caucus at ICPD, began in Cairo to organize activities intended to hold national Governments and international organizations and agencies responsible for the commitments made at the Conference. They will look not only at the broader programmatic definitions agreed to at ICPD, but also at issues of government spending on social programme priorities.

The Population Institute will be organizing a series of workshops around the world to review the Programme of Action and to chart a course of follow-up. Other NGO groups have already met to take stock of the achievements of ICPD in terms of process and content, and to determine their own plans for implementation of the document's programme and policy goals.

Family Care International is producing a report on sexual and reproductive health and rights based on the Programme of Action. The report, *Action for the 21st Century — Reproductive Health and Rights for All*, will be available in early November in English, French and Spanish. Contact FCI at: 588 Broadway, Suite 510, New York, NY 10012; tel. (212) 941-5300; fax (212) 941-5563.

The staff of the NGO Planning Committee for the ICPD are completing a final report of the NGO Forum which will be mailed to all Forum participants in January 1995. The report will include a list of registered participants, and statements from the women's, environmental, youth, pro-life, religious and AIDS caucuses. The report will be produced by the Population Reference Bureau, through a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development; additional copies will be available from PRB: 1875 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20009; tel. (202) 483-1100. The NGO Planning Committee office will close in early December.

MAGGIE HALLAHAN

U.S. Vice-President Al Gore gives a lecture on 5 September at the NGO Forum '94.

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NGO Statement to ICPD Plenary

Following are excerpts from the 13 September statement by Dr. Florence Manguyu, Acting Co-Chairperson of the NGO Planning Committee for the ICPD, at the final meeting of the ICPD Plenary.

Mr. President, the NGO participants and women's groups wish to express our sincere gratitude to the President, His Excellency Mr. Hosni Mubarak, to the Government and the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt for the very warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded to us during our stay in Egypt. We wish especially to acknowledge the support received from two of our sisters, Mrs. Susan Mubarak, the First Lady of this country, and Dr. Nafis Sadik, the Secretary-General of the Conference, for their exemplary courage.

We wish to record our gratitude to the world community for recognizing women's needs, women's concerns, women's well-being, particularly women's reproductive health, and for taking the time to discuss these concerns in such great depth at this historic Conference.

We wish to affirm that we stand for the spirit of caring, the spirit of concern, and the spirit of nurturing of our children, our loved ones, the young and the old in our communities. We know there is a long road ahead. We have here in Cairo taken the first step, and now look forward to the community of nations which has acknowledged our capabilities to now implement this Programme of Action, which is so much endowed with the essential ingredients of true human development.

Mr. President, this continent of Africa has been honoured. Egypt has been privileged. The women of the world have been uplifted. One more battle has been won. We leave this country with great satisfaction that we are party to this transformation. We feel more empowered than when we came, and this is something good to take home. It is worth sustaining. Thank you, and bye-bye until we see you in action.

Speakers

Continued from page 5

standing of problems developing countries face and help create a global consensus and mobilize adequate resources to address those problems effectively.

Cuba said the ICPD debate regarding migration showed "the growing concerns of industrialized countries", pointing up the urgent need for action to promote development. The Philippines reiterated the call by many delegations at ICPD for a global conference on international migration and development.

St. Lucia described ICPD as "a powerful initiative, however contentious some of the issues may have been". Paraguay pointed out that it had expressed two reservations when the ICPD Programme of Action was adopted.

The Marshall Islands praised ICPD's "expanded international population strategy", but voiced concern "that so much of the costs involved in the implementation of the Plan of Action will be borne by individual countries".

Calendar of Upcoming Events

1994

20 September-mid-December
United Nations Headquarters,
New York

Forty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly. Consideration of the Report of the International Conference on Population and Development.

1995

16-22 January
United Nations Headquarters,
New York

Third session of the Preparatory Committee for the World Summit for Social Development.

21 February-2 March
United Nations Headquarters,
New York

Twenty-eighth session of the United Nations Population Commission.

6-12 March
Copenhagen, Denmark

World Summit for Social Development.

15 March-7 April
United Nations Headquarters,
New York

Third meeting of the Commission on the Status of Women in preparation for the Fourth World Conference on Women.

26 June
San Francisco, USA

Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter.

4-15 September
Beijing, China

Fourth World Conference on Women.

22-24 October
United Nations Headquarters
New York

Special commemorative meeting of the United Nations General Assembly on the 50th anniversary of the United Nations.

International Conference on Population and Development

ICPD '94

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